

WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending July 8, 2001

WEEK IN BRIEF:

Raspberry and Mint harvest underway
Warm, dry conditions stressed cereal grain crops

FIELD CROPS

Temperatures have been above normal across much of the state with little precipitation to be found. Winter wheat producers prepared for harvest under average to below average yield expectations. Spring grains were nearly headed. Potato fields were in bloom with early red potato harvest set to begin in Franklin County. Mint harvest was underway. Christmas tree growers prepared sticks for top working Noble and Shasta fir trees. Turfgrass growers continued to irrigate.

LIVESTOCK

Warm, dry conditions made for perfect hay harvesting conditions. Rainfall is needed to improve range and pasture condition. Range and pasture conditions were 4% very poor, 42% poor, 40% fair, and 14% good. Dairymen continued harvesting greenchop and applying liquid manure to forage fields.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Raspberry harvest was underway throughout many areas of the state. Raspberry producers are expecting a high quality, good yielding crop year. Many fruit producers were still assessing and reporting damage from last week's storm. Strawberry harvest has peaked and continued under ideal conditions. Cherry harvest continued. Blueberries and apples were reported sizing well. Green pea harvest was nearly completed while lettuce and cabbage harvest continued. Seed spinach plants were bolting.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
6.8	5.3

Soil Moisture	Soil Moisture and Supply			
	% Acreage			
Soil Type	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	11	48	41	-
Subsoil	18	51	31	-
Irrigation Water	-	10	90	-
Hay and Roughage	-	10	90	-
VS=Very Short, SH=Short, AD=Adequate, S=Surplus				

Crop Progress				
Crop/Activity	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2000	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Headed	93	84	91	89
Winter Wheat Harvest	-	-	-	-
Barley Headed	95	87	96	91
Potatoes Harvested	3	2	4	2
Alfalfa, 1 st cutting	100	97	99	96
Alfalfa, 2 nd cutting	63	48	72	58

Crop Condition *					
Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	15	43	40	-
Winter Wheat Irrigated	-	-	-	100	-
Spring Wheat Dryland	5	35	41	19	-
Spring Wheat Irrigated	-	-	5	95	-
Barley Dryland	5	33	38	24	-
Barley Irrigated	-	-	10	90	-
Dry Beans	-	-	-	100	-
Corn	-	-	5	95	-
Potato	-	-	5	95	-
VP=Very Poor, P=Poor, F=Fair, G=Good, EX=Excellent					

* Crop conditions are a measure of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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COUNTY COMMENTS

WESTERN

Grays Harbor: Summer has arrived on the Harbor! Warm, dry conditions resulted in a frenzy of activity, as livestock producers took advantage of nearly perfect hay harvesting conditions. Warm temperatures resulted in excellent growth of sweet corn and cannery peas. Christmas tree growers continued monitoring Noble fir plantations for aphid infestations. Dairy producers continued harvesting green chop and applying liquid manure to forage fields. U-Pick vegetable farms reported excellent sales of spinach, lettuce, and other early season vegetables. Ag producers with available irrigation equipment put it to use!

King/Pierce: Warm season crops were growing well with the recent warm weather. Strawberries were past their peak, with raspberry harvest just underway. Lettuce and cabbage harvest continued.

Pierce/Thurston: The weather was good and crop conditions were favorable. There were no unusual situations to report.

Skagit: Raspberry harvest began. Strawberry

harvest continued and warm dry weather resulted in a beautiful crop. Many pea and potato fields were in bloom. Seed spinach plants were bolting. The placing of apple maggot traps surrounding commercial orchards was completed.

Snohomish: Crops were beginning to show stress from lack of rain. Pastures were generally in good shape, and local hay was being harvested. Raspberry harvest continued. Blueberries and apples were sizing well.

Thurston: Warm, sunny weather resulted in a whirlwind of activity, as livestock producers raced to get their hay harvest completed without further deterioration of forage quality. At this time, fields of lesser quality were being left uncut. Prices were advertised at anywhere from \$2.00 to \$2.75 per bale in the field. Commercial turfgrass growers were aggressively irrigating fields. Commercial strawberry harvest peaked. The warm weather was ideal for both harvest and fruit quality. Christmas tree growers prepared sticks for top working Noble and Shasta fir. Dairy producers continued applying liquid manure to forage fields.

CENTRAL

Chelan/Douglas: Cherry harvest continued. Selective picking was required due to last week's rain storm. Wheat continued to mature. Dry conditions continued in ranges and pastures. The weather was warm during the week.

Franklin: High temperatures helped crop development. The second cutting of alfalfa continued. Cherries were being picked. Early red potato harvest will begin soon. Small-scale growers harvested raspberries, summer squash, and garlic.

Grant: Dryland winter wheat harvest will begin

in southern regions this week. The second cutting of alfalfa and green pea harvest was nearly complete. Significant damage, especially to apples and soft fruit (from the June 27 wind and hailstorm on the Wahluke) was reported within an area 1 mile wide and 10 miles in length.

Grant (2nd Report): Dryland wheat harvest was expected to begin this week. Bunching onion seed harvest was in progress. Mint harvest progressed. Cherry harvest continued.

Kittitas: The weather was good for timothy and alfalfa hay growers. Cultivation of sweet corn

continued. Irrigation water supply was short, with no idea of when they will shut off the KRD. Pasture and range conditions were fair, with rainfall needed.

Okanogan/Ferry: Conditions remained about the same as last week's report, except there was no precipitation.

EASTERN

Adams: Hot, dry, and windy conditions persisted. Winter wheat was mostly in fair condition. Harvesting should start this week, in the southern end of the county. Spring cereals were mostly in poor condition and were drying up instead of ripening. Sub-soil moisture for winter wheat establishment this fall is in short supply and will be a challenge for growers to get good stands unless it rains.

Asotin & Garfield: A few farmers just began harvesting in the lower elevations. There have been no reports of yields. Thunderstorms one day last week provided a little more moisture. Crops in the upper elevations could still benefit from additional rain. All crops and pastures have been affected by this year's drought. Yields will range from average to well below average. There have been reports of fields that were being destroyed rather than being harvested.

Garfield (2nd Report): Monsoon-like rains kept up hopes and delayed harvest. Fear of Mormon crickets and grasshopper outbreaks in the eastern Washington counties were rising. Damage was reported to dryland hay in southeast Adams County, western Whitman County, and northwest Garfield County. Harvest may begin in very low rainfall Snake River Breaks by July 13, unless more rains cause delays.

Yakima: Average temperatures were warmer than normal, ranging from 2 to 9 degrees above normal, with no precipitation. Producers continued to report damage to many crops, due to the previous week's rain/hail/wind storm.

Lincoln: Hot, dry weather continued to stress the crops around the county. The winter wheat was turning color and was in the dough stage, while the spring grains were headed and finished flowering. Dryland hay crops reported low yields due to both the drought and frost damage. Pastures remained short. Grass seed will soon begin gearing up for harvest.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Warm, hot weather was starting to make things grow and to show additional signs of lack of moisture. The southern part of the county received .25" of rain on Friday, but nothing in northern Spokane or Pend Oreille County. Swathing of bluegrass seed was approximately 66 percent down, with a few combines starting to harvest the seed. Pend Oreille County began cutting timothy hay, with the weather looking pretty good. Strawberry picking was nearly complete, with cherry harvest starting this week.

Whitman: Farmers prepared for grain harvest, and should begin in the southern section of the County within a couple of weeks. Grain yield expectations were highly variable.

WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS

July 9, 2001

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	45	80	61	0	80	2	13	-1	0.00	-0.35	0	25.50	-8.44	75	139
Everett	50	76	61	-1	81	-3	13	-8	0.00	-0.33	0	24.11	-10.20	70	136
Hoquiam	47	74	59	-2	63	-5	2	-5	0.00	-0.34	0	42.27	-23.51	64	155
Kelso	46	86	64	2	100	11	30	5	0.00	-0.28	0	19.59	-24.96	44	122
Olympia	42	85	61	-1	81	-1	16	-3	0.00	-0.23	0	30.02	-18.93	61	134
Seattle-Tacoma	49	83	64	-1	98	-1	28	-4	0.00	-0.22	0	23.94	-11.74	67	123
Shelton	44	86	62	-2	87	-9	20	-10	0.00	-0.27	0	40.68	-22.60	64	140
Tacoma	46	82	62	-2	86	-10	18	-10	0.00	-0.25	0	26.05	-12.46	68	130
Vancouver	49	89	67	4	121	25	51	23	0.00	-0.22	0	22.62	-17.05	57	136
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	48	94	70	4	142	25	72	22	0.00	-0.07	0	6.98	-1.42	83	72
Omak	48	103	74	9	173	61	103	56	0.00	-0.17	0	5.76	-7.77	43	60
Stampede Pass	38	82	57	4	52	20	11	11	0.01	-0.39	1	52.83	-25.60	67	162
Wenatchee	58	100	76	6	186	34	116	34	0.00	-0.07	0	5.52	-2.22	71	66
Yakima AP	49	100	74	6	169	38	99	37	0.00	-0.07	0	4.70	-2.81	63	60
NORTHEAST															
Colville	47	101	72	8	158	51	88	46	0.00	-0.21	0	12.14	-7.41	62	74
Deer Park	39	97	67	0	121	1	52	-1	0.00	-0.21	0	12.74	-4.46	74	107
Spokane AP	50	98	72	6	156	36	86	33	0.00	-0.18	0	9.99	-5.36	65	94
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	55	102	76	3	183	19	113	19	0.00	-0.08	0	5.24	-1.51	78	67
Moses Lake	48	102	74	0	167	3	97	3	0.00	-0.08	0	6.47	-0.28	96	63
Quincy	53	98	75	6	179	41	109	40	0.00	-0.07	0	5.15	-2.16	70	57
Ritzville	48	100	72	5	153	31	83	29	0.00	-0.14	0	9.17	-1.51	86	74
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	57	100	77	2	194	12	124	12	0.00	-0.06	0	6.13	0.04	101	61
Pasco	46	105	76	3	180	16	110	16	0.02	-0.04	1	7.52	0.49	107	70
Pullman	43	93	67	4	120	24	52	18	0.09	-0.12	1	12.79	-6.97	65	103
Walla Walla AP	56	102	77	5	193	29	123	28	0.13	-0.01	1	15.38	-2.95	84	93
Whitman Mission	47	102	73	4	164	26	94	25	0.15	0.01	2	13.93	1.08	108	97
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A'AP	41	97	67	-1	120	-3	51	-3	0.00	-0.26	0	15.90	-8.20	66	96
Lewiston ID	55	103	77	6	191	34	121	33	0.09	-0.09	1	11.21	0.01	100	99

Summary based on NWS data.

Season CUMulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2000

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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